

**MINUTES OF THE 2005 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 9, 2005 PROSPECT MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL
ALTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Pursuant to the foregoing Warrant, the voters met at the Prospect Mountain High School on Wednesday, March 9, 2005 at 7 o'clock in the evening to act on the balance of the Warrant Articles. Moderator Mark Northridge called the meeting to order promptly at 7:02p.m. The Moderator led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moderator Northridge thanked the people who volunteered to work at the polls and count the ballots in the evening.

Moderator Northridge introduced the Budget Committee Members, Chairman Gregory Fuller, Vice Chairman Jay Piwnicki, John Brooks, Stephen Miller and Laurie Boyce. Mr. Northridge introduced Christine Whalen, Recording Clerk, Lisa Waterman, Town Clerk, Russell Bailey, Town Administrator, James Sessler, Town Attorney and the Board of Selectmen, Chairman Patricia Fuller, Vice Chairman Alan Sherwood, Stephan McMahon and Cris Blackstone.

Moderator Northridge acknowledged that there is a lengthy list of Articles and would try to complete the meeting tonight. He stated that the meeting was being videotaped for replay on Channel 26 and that copies could also be obtained at the Gilman Library for review. In the event it becomes late in the evening the meeting will be recessed and reconvened on Saturday, March 12, 2005 at 9:00a.m. in the auditorium at Prospect Mountain High School. Moderator Northridge announced there were 725 votes cast at Tuesday's election and the results of Articles 1-4 were posted at the back of the auditorium. He also announced that it was voted for the Town to operate as an SB2 Town. He requested that all elected officials stop by the Town Clerk's office to be sworn in as a Town Official after 5:00pm on Friday, March 11, 2005. Moderator Northridge then read the rules of the meeting.

ARTICLE 1 through ARTICLE 4 For results see ballot of March 8, 2005

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Water Commissioners to enter into a five year lease/purchase agreement for \$65,000 for the purpose of leasing/purchasing an excavator and to raise and appropriate the sum of **Thirteen Thousand Dollars (\$13,000.00)** for the first year's payment for that purpose. This lease/purchase agreement will contain an escape (non-appropriation) clause. The total amount shall be borne by the water system ratepayers and not by general taxation. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2006 [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

The Article was moved by Selectman Steve McMahon, seconded by Selectwoman Pat Fuller.

Water Superintendent Richard Quindley stated that instead of renting excavators and hiring workers that it is in the best interest of the Town to purchase an excavator. He further explained that over a five-year period the excavator would pay for itself and last approximately 20 years.

A vote was taken on Article 5 and passed.

Selectwoman Pat Fuller moved to restrict reconsideration, Selectwoman Cris Blackstone seconded and the motion passed. **\$13,000.00 PASSED**

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Water Commissioners to enter into a four year lease/purchase agreement for \$44,000 the purpose of leasing/purchasing a truck with a crane body and to raise and appropriate the sum of **Eleven Thousand Dollars (\$11,000.00)** for the first year's payment for that purpose. The lease/purchase agreement will contain an escape (non-appropriation) clause. The total amount shall be borne by the water system ratepayers and not by general taxation. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2006 [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

The Article was moved by Selectman Steve McMahon, seconded by Selectman Alan Sherwood. Water Superintendent Quindley stated that this vehicle would replace a 1993 ½ ton truck, which is in bad shape. The new vehicle, a 4-wheel drive 1-ton, would have a utility body with a small crane.

A vote was taken on Article 6 and passed.

Selectwoman Cris Blackstone moved to restrict reconsideration, Selectwoman Pat Fuller seconded and the motion passed. **\$11,000.00 PASSED**

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty-Eight Thousand Dollars (\$28,000.00)** for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a new police patrol vehicle. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2006. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

The Article was moved by Selectwoman Fuller, seconded by Selectwoman Blackstone.

Police Chief Kevin Iwans stated that this vehicle is part of the maintenance program. The 2001 vehicle was pulled off the front line and made into a specialty K-9 unit. The 1997 old K-9 vehicle was pulled off line with 143,000 miles. The 2001 K-9 has 81,690 miles.

A vote was taken on Article 7 and passed.

Selectman Sherwood moved to restrict reconsideration, Selectwoman Fuller seconded and the motion passed. **\$28,000.00 PASSED**

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00)** to be placed in the Police Building Capital Reserve fund as previously established. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

The Article was moved by Selectman Sherwood, seconded by Selectwoman Fuller.

Selectman Sherwood reminded the citizens of the study conducted two years ago which looked at the possibility of a public safety facility. The Study explored several options and was of the opinion that the long-term solution would be to upgrade each individual facility. The Police Building Capital Reserve Fund was established in 2004 and this appropriation would add to that fund.

Police Chief Iwans stated that the Police Department is looking forward to the future and the department needs the upgrades to meet accreditation and would like to add to the fund over the next 5-6 years to reduce the tax burden.

A vote was taken on Article 8 and passed.

Selectwoman Fuller moved to restrict reconsideration, Selectwoman Blackstone seconded and the motion passed. **\$40,000.00 PASSED**

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to appoint a Highway Agent and to discontinue the election of the Highway Agent upon completion of the current term, set to expire in March of 2006. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen)

The Article was moved by Selectwoman Fuller, seconded by Selectman Sherwood.

Moderator Northridge advised that there has been a request in writing for a secret ballot.

Selectman Alan Sherwood stated that the Selectmen have been in discussion with the Highway Agent regarding road reconstruction. Currently there is 80 miles of road in the Town with over 50 miles of paved road. The Town currently reconstructs 1 mile of road per year but should be reconstructing 2-3 miles per year. The Town by utilizing a new approach will reduce the expense of relying on outside contractors and engineering. The goal of the Board of Selectmen is to ensure that the Highway Agent is qualified to handle this type of responsibility. Under the elected position there are no qualifications required and by making this an appointed position the Board of Selectmen can insure that qualifications are met for the position.

Highway Agent Ken Roberts stated that he has had several discussions with the Board of Selectmen. He further stated that careful consideration has been taken on the issue that the Road Agent is given a budget of 1.6 million and that it is beneficial to the Town to have a qualified Road Agent.

Discussion ensued. Selectman Sherwood further explained that the Police Chief, the Fire Chief and all other Department Heads are appointed positions except for the Town Clerk and Tax Collector. He reiterated that it is the responsibility of the Board of Selectmen to fulfill its obligations to the Town.

Earl Bagley stated that Ken Roberts is doing a good job but stated his concern for how the engineering would be handled.

Highway Agent Roberts explained that the engineering would not stop completely but that the Highway Department could handle some sections without engineering and the more difficult areas would have to be contracted out.

Moderator Northridge called a 5 minute recess while the votes were cast. He then continued onto the next Article while the votes were counted. Moderator Northridge announced the results of the secret ballot vote, which were 81 in favor of the Article and 50 opposed.

Selectman McMahon moved to restrict reconsideration, Selectwoman Blackstone seconded and the motion passed. **PASSED**

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000.00)** to be added to the Library Elevator Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

The Article was moved by Selectwoman Blackstone, seconded by Selectman McMahon.

Librarian Holly Brown stated that there is currently \$42,200 in the Gilman Library Elevator Fund with \$26,000 in Capital Improvement Fund and \$16,200 in library contributions, fundraising and donations. The cost to complete the elevator is \$47,300. She further stated that the elevator and installation is \$41,400, electrical \$3,900 and carpentry \$2,000. She also stated that the Gilman Library thanks everyone for their support and expect to have the elevator up and running by 2006.

A vote was taken on Article 10 and passed.

Selectman Sherwood moved to restrict reconsideration, Selectwoman Fuller seconded and the motion passed. **\$6,000.00 PASSED**

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Thirty Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000.00)** to be added to the Landfill Closure Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established. The sum of \$35,000 to come from fund balance (surplus) and no funds to be raised from general taxation. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and by the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

The Article was moved by Selectwoman Blackstone, seconded by Selectman McMahon.

Town Administrator Russell Bailey stated that they have been working with the State and Engineers for contamination and have installed several new monitoring wells. The Town continues to work with DES to continue to monitor all wells on the site as required by the State of New Hampshire.

A vote was taken on Article 11 and passed.

Selectwoman Fuller moved to restrict reconsideration, Selectman Sherwood seconded and the motion passed. **\$35,000.00 PASSED**

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty Seven Thousand Dollars (\$27,000.00)** to purchase one acre of land abutting to the transfer station to meet NH DES/EPA regulatory requirements and allow for future growth. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until purchased or by December 31st, 2006. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

The Article was moved by Selectman McMahon, seconded by Selectwoman Fuller.

Selectwoman Fuller stated that difficulties have arisen and that the Board of Selectmen ask that you vote no on this Article and further stated that the Board was not at liberty to discuss the issues.

A vote was taken on Article 12 and failed.

Selectman Sherwood moved to restrict reconsideration, Selectwoman Blackstone seconded and the motion passed. **\$27,000.00 FAILED**

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Four Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Four Dollars (\$4,884.00)** for funding of salary adjustments for the Highway Department AFSCME Union Agreement. This is a special warrant article. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

The Article was moved by Selectman Sherwood, seconded by Selectwoman Blackstone.

Highway Agent Roberts stated that the Warrant Article deals with the Union Contract for the Highway Department. He stated that the salary adjustment to the contract involves truck drivers to obtain qualified truck drivers for the Town. The Town Administrator stated this is an amendment to the existing contract that expires in the spring of 2006.

A vote was taken on Article 13 and passed.

Selectwoman Fuller moved to restrict reconsideration, Selectman McMahon seconded and the motion passed. **\$4,884.00 PASSED**

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00)** to be placed in the Benefit Pay Expendable Trust Fund, as previously established. Said funds are recommended by the Town Auditors to be used to pay for benefits accrued by Town Employees and redeemed when they leave employment with the Town of Alton, in accordance with the Town Personnel Policy. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

The Article was moved by Selectwoman Fuller, seconded by Selectwoman Blackstone.

Selectwoman Fuller stated that the Benefit Pay Trust is kept for longtime employees for accrued benefits and there is currently \$42,000 in the Trust Fund. She further advised that \$13,800 was expended last year in benefits.

A vote was taken on Article 14 and passed.

Selectman Sherwood moved to restrict reconsideration, Selectman McMahon seconded and the motion passed. **\$10,000.00 PASSED**

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00)** for the purpose of contracting with the Regional Planning Commission and other qualified consultants to assist in amending the Master Plan, Zoning ordinance, instituting impact fees, Subdivision and site plan regulations. This sum (\$30,000) to come from fund balance (surplus) and no amount is to be raised from taxation. This is a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st, 2006, whichever is sooner. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

The Article was moved by Selectman Sherwood, seconded by Selectman McMahon.

Selectman Sherwood stated the Article is in support of the Planning Board for the updating of the Master Plan and Zoning Regulations, as they are 15-20 years old. The majority of the funds would be used for obtaining technical assistance from the Lakes Region Planning Commission. A small portion will be used for a consultant to look into impact fees for either schools or roads.

A vote was taken on Article 15 and passed.

Selectwoman Blackstone moved to restrict reconsideration, Selectwoman Fuller seconded and the motion passed. **\$30,000.00 PASSED**

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty-Nine Thousand Dollars (\$29,000.00)** for the purpose of purchasing a new pickup truck/plow for the transfer station – solid waste facility. This is a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st, 2006, whichever is sooner. . [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

The Article was moved by Selectwoman Blackstone, seconded by Selectwoman Fuller.

Scott Simonds, Director of the Solid Waste Facility stated that the new vehicle would replace a 1990 Ford pickup with 140,000 miles on it. He also advised that the Town has spent over \$12,000 in repairs to the vehicle over the last 4 years. The new vehicle would be a ¾ ton Ford pickup with a plow.

Highway Agent Roberts stated the Water Department, Parks and Recreation and the Solid Waste Facility vehicles will be bid as a package to keep the costs down.

A vote was taken on Article 16 and passed.

Selectman Sherwood moved to restrict reconsideration, Selectman McMahon seconded and the motion passed. **\$29,000.00 PASSED**

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00)** to be added to the Solid Waste Center Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

The Article was moved by Selectman McMahon, seconded by Selectwoman Fuller.

Scott Simonds advised that the Capital Reserve Fund was previously established to replace a 1982 cat loader for the Solid Waste Facility.

A vote was taken on Article 17 and passed.

Selectman Sherwood moved to restrict reconsideration, Selectwoman Blackstone seconded and the motion passed. **\$25,000.00 PASSED**

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under RSA 35:1 for the purpose for building and site improvements at the transfer station and to raise and appropriate the sum of **Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00)** to be placed in this fund. Also to see if the municipality will vote to appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend from the fund. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

The Article was moved by Selectwoman Fuller, seconded by Selectman McMahon.

Scott Simonds stated that the Capital Reserve Fund will be set up for future growth of the facility as well as meeting the Federal EPA Stormwater Plan.

A vote was taken on Article 18 and passed.

Selectwoman Blackstone moved to restrict reconsideration, Selectman Sherwood seconded and the motion passed. **\$10,000.00 PASSED**

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00)** to build a 16 x 20 addition to the AVAS building for storage and equipment repairs. This is a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st, 2006, whichever is sooner. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

The Article was moved by Selectwoman Blackstone, seconded by Selectman Sherwood.

Kellie Troendle, Director of Parks and Recreation gave a presentation to aid the public for all of the Warrant Articles for the Department.

Kellie stated that the appropriation is to build a 16' x 20' addition attached to the rear of the A.V.A.S. Building for storage of maintenance equipment and to perform equipment repairs inside. The majority of the work would be done by the departments' staff. She also stated that the permanent structure would have three walls, roof, windows, electricity, a garage door and a standard door. The estimated completion date is April 2006.

A vote was taken on Article 19 and passed.

Selectwoman Fuller moved to restrict reconsideration, Selectman McMahon seconded and the motion passed. **\$10,000.00 PASSED**

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Thirty-Three Thousand Dollars (\$33,000.00)** to purchase a new pickup truck with plow for the Parks & Recreation/Grounds Maintenance Department and to authorize the withdrawal of Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000) from the Capital reserve fund created for that purpose. The balance of Twenty-One Thousand Dollars (\$21,000) is to come from general taxation. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 VI and will not lapse until purchased or by December 31st, 2006, whichever is sooner. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

The Article was moved by Selectman Sherwood, seconded by Selectwoman Blackstone.

Kellie Troendle stated that the pickup would replace a 1993 Chevy Silverado with 133,936 miles. Currently the truck is not in operation because it will not shift into reverse gear and repairs have cost \$2,596.00 in 2004. A pickup truck is needed to perform essential department functions such as trash removal, towing turf and snow removal equipment, snow plowing and for the maintenance and repair of the nine town buildings and parks.

The requested purchase is for a 4-wheel drive 2006 Ford 250 ³/₄ ton truck with a 7 year/100,000 mile warranty, Fisher plow and a strobe light and trailer-towing package. The truck will be put out to bid with the other requested department's trucks.

A vote was taken on Article 20 and passed.

Selectwoman Fuller moved to restrict reconsideration, Selectman McMahon seconded and the motion passed. **\$33,000.00 PASSED**

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of permanent improvements and betterments to the town beach/park on Route 28A and to raise and appropriate the sum of **Thirty-Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$37,500.00)** to be placed in this fund. Also to appoint the Selectmen as agents

to expend from the beach repair Capital Reserve fund. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and not recommended by the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

The Article was moved by Selectwoman Blackstone, seconded by Selectman Sherwood.

Kellie Troendle stated the Beach Committee recommends improvements to the existing Town Beach. They have determined that the installation of a perched beach system with a rock wall and stairs leading into the water will provide lake access and prevent the current erosion problem. She stated there is exposed lumber which causes safety and liability issues. Kellie further stated there are positive attributes to this site which include restrooms, parking, views and walking distance to the bay businesses and the boat docks. Kellie stated people have expressed concerns with this site which includes the location of the marinas, milfoil, water flow and parking across the street. The Town has the responsibility to make the facility safe and repair the facility we all ready have in place. The total cost of the project is \$75,000. This Article would establish a Capital Reserve Fund to raise and appropriate the sum of \$37,500 to be placed in this fund. In 2006, we would ask the Town to appropriate the balance of \$37,500 to complete the project by December 2006.

Budget Committee Vice Chairman Jay Piwnicki stated that it was the consensus of the Committee that the concept was not prudent to spend the money on a location that has several problems.

Paul Richardson, a member of the beach committee, stated that the approximate 10 member committee investigated alternate sites but that would cost millions of dollars. He also advised that there were other obligations to the Town in locating another beach site such as requirements for parking, restrooms, and safety equipment. He stated that the current site has facilities in place and that the committee is working closely with the State for the perched beach proposal.

Dorothy Wentworth questioned if the Town was currently exploring the possibility of acquiring a grant to match money. Kellie stated that they have not explored the possibility but that it would be worth looking into.

Discussion ensued. Concerns with the plan included the closeness of the road, handi-cap accessibility, water quality and grant money. Kellie added that there were several steps that the Town could take to enhance the water quality through general education, hand pulling of the milfoil and raking of the rocks. She also advised that the Town has hired a New Hampshire soil scientist and that the project has been well thought out as the plan currently would be permittable by the State the way it is and that they did not want to spend tax dollars on a permit until the funds have been approved.

A motion was made by Dwayne Hammond to move the question, which passed by a 2/3 majority.

A standing vote was taken on the Article with 59 in favor and 59 against.

According to the rules of the Moderator, it is up to the Moderator to break a tie. The Moderator voted in favor of the Article and Article 21 passed.

Selectman McMahon moved to restrict reconsideration, Selectwoman Blackstone seconded. The vote was too close to call and a standing vote was taken with 64 in favor and 59 against and the motion passed.

\$37,500.00 PASSED

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Fifty-Two Thousand Dollars (\$52,000.00)** for the purpose of repairing the town docks. The sum of \$26,000 to come from fund balance (surplus) and \$26,000 to be raised from general taxation. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 VI and will not lapse until the repairs are completed or by December 31, 2006, whichever is sooner. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

The Article was moved by Selectman McMahon, seconded by Selectwoman Fuller.

Kellie Troendle stated that repairs are needed to the Public Boat Docks. There are currently 4 finger docks in need of repair as well as the replacement of 180 feet of the concrete walkway. There are safety hazards and liability issues. The Town Maintenance Department has tried to repair the docks and walkway but is not a solution to the current problem. The total estimated project cost is \$76,000 including \$24,000 previously appropriated with a completion date of Ice Out 2006.

A motion was made by Harold Bothwick to move the question before any discussion occurred. The motion passed by a 2/3 majority vote.

A vote was taken on Article 22 and passed.

Selectman Sherwood moved to restrict reconsideration, Selectwoman Blackstone seconded and the motion passed. **\$52,000.00 PASSED**

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended sum of **Five Million Eighteen Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Eight Dollars (\$5,018,998.00)** for general municipal operations. The Selectmen recommend **(\$5,023,239.00)**. This article does not include special or individual articles addressed. (A majority vote is required)

The Article was moved by Budget Committee Chairman Greg Fuller, seconded by Vice Chairman Jay Piwnicki.

Budget Committee Chairman Greg Fuller stated that the Committee went through the budget and had more realistic numbers for the cost of fuel to work with that were not available for the Board of Selectmen. He also stated that the Budget Committee took actual costs and expenditures from the previous year to base the budget.

Board of Selectmen Chairwoman Pat Fuller stated that there was a lot of give and take between the Boards and that the Board of Selectmen is willing to agree with the Budget Committee's recommendation.

A motion was made by Robert Longabaugh and seconded by Marcella Perry to amend the Article to read:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Five Million Twenty Three Thousand Two Hundred and Thirty Nine Dollars (\$5,023,239.00)** for general municipal operations. This article does not include special or individual articles addressed. (A majority vote is required)

Discussion ensued on the amendment.

A vote was taken on the amendment and failed.

Discussion ensued on the original Article.

A vote was taken on Article 23 and passed.

Selectwoman Blackstone moved to restrict reconsideration, Selectwoman Fuller seconded and the motion passed. **\$5,018,998 PASSED**

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Ninety-Three Thousand-Five-Hundred Dollars (\$93,500.00)** and to authorize the withdrawal of the \$93,500 from the Ambulance Operation fund as previously established under RSA 31: 95c for the purpose of the ambulance lease payment, ambulance personnel wages and ambulance supplies. There will be no funds raised from general taxation. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

The Article was moved by Selectman McMahon, seconded by Selectwoman Fuller.

Fire Chief Alan Johnson stated that since the Fire Department has taken over the operation of the ambulance, the ambulance has been self sufficient due to fees paid by insurance companies. These funds will be used to cover the support of our ambulance coverage, lease payments, and consumable supplies.

A vote was taken on Article 24 and passed.

Selectman Sherwood moved to restrict reconsideration, Selectwoman Blackstone seconded and the motion passed. **\$93,500.00 PASSED**

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Twenty-Five Thousand-Eight-Hundred Seventy Dollars (\$25,870.00)** for the purpose of purchasing an Argo Off Road Rescue vehicle for use by the Fire Department. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until the vehicle is purchased or by December 31st, 2006. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and not recommended by the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

The Article was moved by Fire Ward Ken Roberts, seconded by Fire Chief Alan Johnson.

Fire Chief Alan Johnson stated that the Town is growing at a rapid pace with additional year round residents and larger island properties and additional EMS and fire protection is required. The Argo is a tracked, amphibious vehicle that could be used in a rescue on Mt. Major, which occurs about 5 to 6 times a year, or an island rescue before the ice is solid. It can transport 1600 pounds of equipment. In water the Argo travels about 2½ miles per hour, on land or ice about 18 miles per hour. It can also be used as an off-road transport to bring equipment and manpower to remote areas which a vehicle cannot pass in case of a brush fire or rescue.

Budget Committee Member Steve Miller stated that it is difficult to speak against an emergency vehicle but the Budget Committee is charged with looking at the expenses of the town and that the actual need for the Argo has not been demonstrated.

Discussion ensued on the actual capabilities of the equipment.

Budget Committee Vice Chairman Piwnicki stated that it is the chore of the budget committee to review expenditures as well as liability and look at the total dollars being spent by the Town. He also added that the Committee looks at what is really needed for that year and that the vehicle does have merits but that it is prudent to wait another year.

Judy Fry questioned if there is mutual aid town for this piece of equipment. Chief Johnson responded that Gilford has one but is limited on manpower.

A vote was taken on Article 25 and failed.

Selectwoman Fuller moved to restrict reconsideration, Selectman Sherwood seconded and the motion passed. **\$25,870.00 FAILED**

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of improving and expanding the Alton Fire Stations and to raise and appropriate the sum of **Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00)** to be placed in that fund. Also to vote to appoint the selectmen as agents to expend from the Fire Stations capital reserve fund. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

The Article was moved by Selectman Sherwood, seconded by Selectwoman Blackstone.

Selectman Sherwood stated that the Article is to establish a Capital Reserve Fund for the future growth of the Fire facilities which was recommended by the Safety Facility Study Committee two years ago.

Fire Chief Johnson explained an addition to the East Alton Fire Station is needed in order to house the students from the Fire Academy so the Town of Alton would have three manned substations.

A vote was taken on Article 26 and passed.

Fire Chief Johnson moved to restrict reconsideration, Selectman McMahon seconded and the motion passed. **\$40,000.00 PASSED**

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Fifty Thousand-Seven Hundred Dollars (\$50,700.00)** for the lease payment on the Fire Rescue Vehicle. The sum of \$50,700 to come from fund balance (surplus) and no funds to be raised from general taxation. This is the payment on the lease/purchase of a five-year agreement. This is a special warrant article. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

The Article was moved by Selectwoman Fuller, seconded by Selectman Sherwood.

Fire Chief Alan Johnson stated that last year he came before Town Meeting and it was approved to purchase a rescue truck and this is the first lease payment which requires support.

Ruth Messier questioned if it was the second year of the 5-year lease. Town Administrator Bailey stated that it is actually the first payment as there was a delay in putting in the order for the rescue truck.

A vote was taken on Article 27 and passed.

Selectwoman Blackstone moved to restrict reconsideration, Selectman McMahon seconded and the motion passed. **\$50,700.00 PASSED**

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00)** to be added to the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Account. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

The Article was moved by Selectwoman Fuller, seconded by Selectman Sherwood.

Fire Chief Johnson stated that the funds are to be added to the Capital Reserve Fund for the future replacement of apparatus.

Harold Bothwick questioned how much is currently in the Fund. Town Administrator Russell Bailey stated that there is currently \$116,000 in the fund.

Gregory Lindland asked who approves the withdrawal of money from this fund.

Fire Ward Ken Roberts stated it would be approved by the voters on the ballot.

A vote was taken on Article 28 and passed.

Selectman McMahon moved to restrict reconsideration, Selectwoman Blackstone seconded and the motion passed. **\$100,000.00 PASSED**

ARTICLE 29: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Sixteen Thousand Dollars (\$16,000.00)** for the purpose of installing a vehicle exhaust system in the West Alton Fire Station. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st, 2006. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

The Article was moved by Selectwoman Blackstone, seconded by Selectman Sherwood.

Fire Chief Johnson stated a vehicle exhaust system is needed in the West Alton Fire Station due to the added apparatus being stored there and the safety of the five students currently living upstairs.

A vote was taken on Article 29 and passed.

Selectwoman Fuller moved to restrict reconsideration, Selectman McMahon seconded and the motion passed. **\$16,000.00 PASSED**

ARTICLE 30: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00)** for the purpose of equipping the new Rescue vehicle. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st, 2006. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and not recommended by the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

The Article was moved by Selectman Sherwood, seconded by Selectwoman Fuller.

Fire Chief Johnson stated that since the purchase of the new rescue truck technology has changed. The money would be used to purchase an electrically driven hydraulic power pump and extension hoses which were not included on the rescue truck.

A vote was taken on Article 30 and passed.

Selectwoman Blackstone moved to restrict reconsideration, Selectman McMahon seconded and the motion passed. **\$15,000.00 PASSED**

ARTICLE 31: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Eleven Thousand Dollars (\$11,000.00)** for the purpose of purchasing protective gear for the Fire Department personnel. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st, 2006. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and not recommended by the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

The Article was moved by Fire Ward Ken Roberts, seconded by Fire Chief Johnson.

Fire Ward Ken Roberts stated that with the increase in Fire Department personnel, there is the need for increased protection gear.

Ruth Messier questioned if this equipment is needed for the current members or potential new members.

Fire Chief Johnson stated this is for the purchase of 7 sets of personal protective equipment at approximately \$1,450 per set. Three sets are to be replacement sets and four sets are for future use by new recruits. He also advised that requirements are very strict with protective gear and that once they are damaged they cannot be utilized.

A vote was taken on Article 31 and passed.

Fire Ward Ken Roberts moved to restrict reconsideration, Fire Ward Quindley seconded and the motion passed. **\$11,000.00 PASSED**

ARTICLE 32: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00)** to be added to the Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

The Article was moved by Selectwoman Fuller, seconded by Selectman McMahon.

Highway Agent Ken Roberts stated that this capital reserve fund was set up to replace bridges. Currently there is one bridge to be replaced which is on Places Mill Road and is scheduled for 2007. The State will fund 80% of the replacement if the town funds 20%.

A vote was taken on Article 32 and passed.

Selectman Sherwood moved to restrict reconsideration, Selectwoman Blackstone seconded and the motion passed. **\$10,000.00 PASSED**

ARTICLE 33: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000.00)** to be added to the Highway Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established. Said amount is partially offset by revenues from the Highway Block Grant Fund estimated to be \$157,090.61. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

The Article was moved by Selectman Sherwood, seconded by Selectwoman Blackstone.

Highway Agent Roberts stated that this program has been established for the last 12 years. Currently the Highway Department is upgrading approximately 1 mile of road per year. As previously mentioned, with the new program being instituted within the Highway Department, hopefully the department will be able to upgrade approximately 3 miles of road per year at the same cost.

Bob Longabaugh questioned who determines what roads need to be improved and at what priority. Highway Agent Roberts stated that a priority list has been submitted to the Board of Selectmen and that there are 27 roads in the program.

A vote was taken on Article 33 and passed.

Selectman McMahon moved to restrict reconsideration, Selectwoman Fuller seconded and the motion passed. **\$750,000.00 PASSED**

ARTICLE 34: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00)** to be added to the Sand Shed Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

The Article was moved by Selectman McMahon, seconded by Selectwoman Fuller.

Highway Agent Roberts stated that the EPA is requiring the Town to enclose its sand shed. The requested amount is a good faith effort on the part of the Town. He further advised that New Durham just completed their shed at a cost of \$290,000.

A vote was taken on Article 34 and passed.

Selectwoman Blackstone moved to restrict reconsideration, Selectman Sherwood seconded and the motion passed. **\$10,000.00 PASSED**

ARTICLE 35: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Hundred-Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000.00)** to be added to the Highway Equipment/Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

The Article was moved by Selectwoman Fuller, seconded by Selectman Sherwood.

Highway Agent Ken Roberts stated that the Article is for the future purchase of equipment and that it does include the excavator.

A vote was taken on Article 35 and passed.

Selectman McMahon moved to restrict reconsideration, Selectwoman Blackstone seconded and the motion passed. **\$150,000.00 PASSED**

ARTICLE 36: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Fifty-Eight Thousand Eight Hundred-Ninety Four Dollars (\$58,894.00)** for the purpose of supporting the following community organizations:

(1) Alton Community Services Program	\$ 7,500.00
(2) American Red Cross	1,397.00
(3) Community Action Program	7,771.00
(4) Genesis	5,985.00
(5) Medication Bridge Prescription Drug Assistance Program	371.00
(6) Lakes Region Community Services Council	600.00
(7) New Beginnings	1,300.00
(8) VNA - Hospice	14,075.00
(9) Youth Services Bureau	15,995.00
(10) Community Health & Hospice Inc. Laconia	3,900.00

This is a special warrant article. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee] (A majority vote is required)

The Article was moved by Selectman McMahon, seconded by Selectman Sherwood.

An Amendment was made to the Article by Ruth Messier and seconded by Harold Bothwick to amend the Article as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Fifty-Eight Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Three Dollars (\$58,523.00)** for the purpose of supporting the following community organizations:

(1) Alton Community Services Program	\$ 7,500.00
(2) American Red Cross	1,397.00
(3) Community Action Program	7,771.00
(4) Genesis	5,985.00
(5) Lakes Region Community Services Council	600.00
(6) New Beginnings	1,300.00
(7) VNA - Hospice	14,075.00
(8) Youth Services Bureau	15,995.00
(9) Community Health & Hospice Inc. Laconia	3,900.00

Ruth Messier stated that the Amendment removes (5) Medication Bridge Prescription Drug Assistance Program for \$371.00. She stated it is a request from Huggins Hospital for the specific purpose of the software and hardware for keeping their pharmaceutical company application data base up to date.

Dorothy Wentworth and Dave Tower both spoke against the amendment.

A vote was taken on the Amendment and the Amendment failed.

Dorothy Wentworth spoke on behalf of the Alton Community Services Program which provides assistance to residents in the Town.

Holly DeWald spoke on behalf of Youth Services Bureau stating that the organization serviced 10 youths in 2004 and 3 referrals for the parent/child mediation program.

Alice Calvert spoke on behalf of VNA Hospice stating that they are requesting \$9,000 less than last year. She stated that the VNA Hospice is requesting funds from 11 towns to help fund uncompensated care that is given.

Maureen Slagle spoke on behalf of New Beginnings and thanked everyone for their continued support.

Jill Sullivan spoke on behalf of the Community Action Program stating that they supplied about \$186,000 in services to Alton, and thanked the citizens for their support.

Richard Wood spoke on behalf of Community Health & Hospice Inc. Laconia. He explained Alton did not use their services last year, but they will this year.

A Motion was made by Dwayne Hammond to move the question and passed by a 2/3 majority vote.

A vote was taken on Article 36 and passed.

Selectwoman Fuller moved to restrict reconsideration, Selectwoman Blackstone seconded and the motion passed. **\$58,894.00 PASSED**

ARTICLE 37: To see if the Town will vote to reduce the number of elected members-at-large of the budget committee from 9 to 5. This amendment if adopted by the town shall become effective at the 2006 Town Meeting. (A majority vote is required)

The Article was moved by Selectman Sherwood, seconded by Selectwoman Fuller.

Alan Sherwood stated that as a previous member of the Alton Budget Committee that there were only a couple of times that all 9 members were present. He further stated that there are ongoing problems with meeting a quorum.

Laurie Boyce made a motion to change the article to the year 2005. Attorney Sessler stated that the Article could not become effective until the year 2006 and Laurie withdrew her motion.

A vote was taken on Article 37 and passed.

Selectwoman Blackstone moved to restrict reconsideration, Budget Committee Vice Chairman Jay Piwnicki seconded and the motion passed. **PASSED**

ARTICLE 38: To hear any reports of any committee, board, trustees, commissions, officials, agents or concerned voters and to vote to accept the same. Furthermore to conduct any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

A motion was made by Ruth Messier and seconded by Harold Bothwick to approve the reports and information included in the 2004 Annual Report of the Town of Alton.

Ruth Messier noted that this is the last time for a Traditional Town Meeting and was disappointed with the loss of the process.

A motion was made by Harold Bothwick and seconded by John Brooks to adjourn Town Meeting.

Upon such motion, Moderator Mark Northridge declared the meeting dissolved at 11:25p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Whalen, Clerk

“A True Copy Attest”
Lisa Waterman, Town Clerk